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## Strength in Nato's diverse nature



The Reagan administration came to office resolved to make Nato the keystone of its foreign policy. This is clearly in the United States' interest: It needs the alliance more than before. The weakening of the United States does not alter the fact that it is the only major power in the

qualitative difference between the United States and other Nato members constitutes an inner imbalance that needs to be brought under control.

On closer inspection, it turns out that the other members of the alliance are equally weak, too. The 15 Nato members are in common membership of and

otherwise they differ in size and political culture and development, po-

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litical temperament, geographical position and particular interests, which they each interpret in the light of their history.

The diversity of the members could be a weakness, but it is also a source of its strength: the variety of their ideas and experience, the diversity of their material and intellectual backgrounds, complement one another.

It is in the nature of a free alliance that its leadership cannot be a matter solely for the leading power or for that leading power and a number of medium-sized powers.

All members must be involved in leadership. And therefore foreign policy must have its legitimacy at home. All the governments in Nato, even the smallest, lead at home — and they can only do so if they do not give the impression of being remote controlled from outside.

Inevitably, there are differences in the degree of cooperation, depending on the capacity of each member to make a contribution — for example in the field of intelligence, diplomacy, economic power, military power.

Here the leading power clearly holds the trump, followed by France, Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. However, no one in the alliance knows more about Libya than the Italians, the Dutch are still the best informed about Indonesia and it would be folly to ignore the knowledge and connections that Portuguese industry and the civil service have gained in southern Africa.

Outside the Nato area, few member states are capable of acting. And the resources they put outside the area will have to be replaced inside the area by other members. All should contribute to making up "at home" for what others

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Exchanging ideas, American Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Bonn with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: dpa)

## Haig winds-up tour with cordial talks in Bonn

Bonn was the last stopover on US Secretary of State Haig's nine-day visit to the Middle East and Europe. It was also the shortest.

The cordiality of his meeting with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher was genuine — despite a number of problems between Bonn and Washington.

They all know each other from the days when Haig was Nato Supreme Commander in Brussels. And Herr Genscher visited his US opposite number in Washington recently.

However, the pleasant nature of their meeting did not eliminate all the problems.

It was already known that Haig's tone was more moderate than that of his colleague Weinberger from the Pentagon.

Haig was clearly trying to calm a certain amount of Bonn shock at Weinberger's forthrightness.

In Washington, too, realities are not always as fearsome as the tough talk might lead us to believe.

However, Weinberger's criticisms are not the only ones. There are increasingly critical voices being raised in the White House about the role of the Europeans, especially West Germany, in Nato.

What goes? Weinberger's hard line or Haig's softer one? The Bonn government probably will not know for sure until Helmut Schmidt has visited President Reagan in Washington on 20 May. The Europeans have now noticed that the Atlantic *Gemeinschaft* of the 70s is over. On the other hand it is also forgotten that Europeans have in recent years also called for more leadership from the United States.

Despite all the assurances of common positions on the Nato modernisation decision, Haig's visit underlined differences of opinion.

The USA went negotiations with the Soviet Union on medium range nuclear missiles "as soon as possible." But Washington will decide what is "possible" and will not be pressured by its allies.

Like it or not, Schmidt and Genscher had to agree to missile reduction negotiations taking place outside the SALT process — with only the results being incorporated in SALT. Here the USA is sticking to its hard line of not resuming SALT negotiations until the Soviets move on Afghanistan.

Although the question of arms exports to Saudi Arabia was not officially broached in Bonn, Secretary of State Haig gave a signal when he indicated to journalists that despite the Israeli problem

Continued on page 2

## Middle East states play it warily over Gulf



Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is extremely complex. It keeps well distant from Moscow, but it distance, from Washington has also grown.

Riyadh would like to keep both great powers out of the Gulf because it believes that the presence of one would attract the other. American protection is desired — but at a certain distance.

The Saudi dynasty is well aware of the

anti-Americanism that led to the overthrow of the Shah of Iran. The Saudi royal family does not wish to appear arm in arm with the Americans. And its fear of being overrun by radical Arab forces if they do not march at the head of the anti-Israeli movement is even greater.

For Saudi Arabia, weapons from Europe are a symbol of independence. After Haig's failure, Helmut Schmidt can now expect Saudi pressure for German tanks to be even stronger when he visits Saudi Arabia shortly.

(Bildzeitung, 10 April 1981)

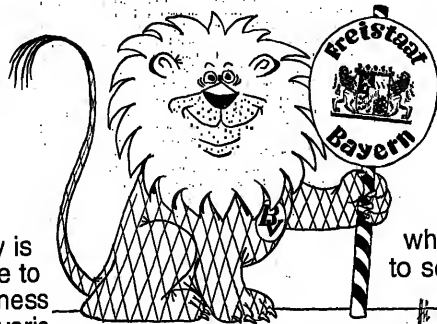
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## ENERGY

### Cash limits jeopardise nuclear plant

The Bonn Ministry of Research says that only one of West Germany's most ambitious nuclear-power projects can be financed.

It has not yet been decided which one will get the axe.

The plants are the SNR 300 at Kalkar, in the lower Rhine, and the THTR 300 at Schmehausen, near Hamm, in the Ruhr.

The Kalkar plant is a sodium-cooled fast breeder and the other a thorium high-temperature prototype.

Both projects have been delayed and, according to current estimates, will cost about DM5bn, three times the original estimate.

Bonn Research Minister Andreas von Arnim emphasises that Bonn is not prepared, in the case of Kalkar, to go on paying the bill forever.

One encouraging sign for Schmehausen is that the North Rhine-Westphalian Supreme Administrative Court in Münster has lifted a court-imposed construction ban.

However, one of the main objectors to the plant, Hamm building contractor Siegfried Scheitler, does not intend to go up the light.

And the Arnheim Administrative Court is still not convinced that the region's first large-scale German high-temperature reactor, would be really safe in the event of sabotage, earthquake or fire.

Arnheim says about the Kalkar plant that Bonn would only be prepared to pay a certain amount per year towards the plant - on condition that West German electricity supply companies make a contribution to filling the DM1bn price gap for the fast breeder. In talks with Bonn, these companies have completely rejected this idea.

Von Bülow said that only the Essen electricity giant RWE, main shareholder

of the plant, would be prepared to give its permission for it to start producing electricity.

Parliament reserved the right to make this decision because this is the first German plutonium project, and fast breeder reactors alarm a large section of the population, especially opponents of atomic energy.

Horst Ludwig Klarmann, former Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Economic Affairs, has starkly forecast that "Kalkar will end up a ruin."

He warned against pumping further billions into the project. "This would be irresponsible towards the taxpayers."

And, he said, "introduced his

of the joint German-Dutch-Belgian project in Kalkar had set a good example by promising to put DM62m into the project in 1981 and 1982.

And Kraftwerkunion (KWU), Germany's largest atomic reactor constructors, have promised DM20m. This brings the total up to DM82m, which is a mere fraction of the originally estimated price of DM1.6 for the fast breeder - not to mention the present estimated cost of at least DM5bn.

And even this stupendous estimate is based on the quite possibly over-optimistic assumption that there will be steady progress in construction up to 1986.

So far progress with Kalkar has been so slow that many politicians and experts had their doubts whether a fast breeder finished as late as 1986 would enable this country to keep pace with the development of this technology. The French are now 15 years ahead.

Von Bülow also pointed out that West Germany lags behind in terms of energy industry investment. Energy companies played a far greater part in research and development in other countries.

Von Bülow welcomed the proposed contribution of RWE and KWU, but only said that it is a small drop in the bucket in view of the huge gap in the Kalkar project's finances.

He appealed to the electricity supply companies to make a greater contribution. West Germany could not renounce fast breeder technology in view of the expected energy crisis by the year 2,000.

Von Bülow told the heads of the electricity supply companies: "There is a credibility gap between your interest in atomic energy development and your willingness to finance these developments."

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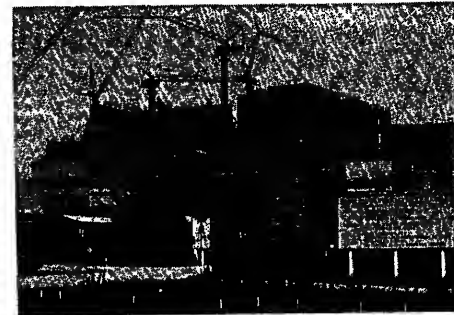
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Future in doubt: the nuclear power plant at Kalkar.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

proposal - scorned by the atomic industry - to turn Kalkar into a plutonium destruction instead of a plutonium creation plant.

Even if the breeder one day became operational it would be no more than a technological and scientific ruin, he said, referring to France's huge lead in this field.

The financial disaster Kalkar now threatens to descend upon a completely different kind of nuclear technology - the Hamm high temperature reactor.

Von Bülow's experts at the Ministry of Research have worked out that Bonn can only afford to finance either Kalkar or Hamm - but not both.

If Bonn withdrew public support from

Hamm, it would face massive resistance from the Düsseldorf SPD, who regard Hamm as having a key role in its coal technology programme. These high temperature reactors could one day be used to convert coal into gas which could then be supplied to the chemical industry instead of precious oil.

Siegfried Scheitler, backed by the Greens and other environmental groups, is fighting the Hamm project. The partial construction ban has now been lifted but he is still hopeful of getting a total ban on building in the final instance. "And then they will have to pull the whole thing down."

Hans Willenweber

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 April 1981)

### New solar cell 'is more effective'

A more energy-effective solar cell has been developed at Erlangen University.

The new cell is easier to produce, so it should also be cheaper.

The current cell, made of monocrystalline silicon, is 13 to 14 per cent effective.

But the new one, developed by R. Hezel of the university's Material Sciences Department, is 16 per cent effective.

This could easily be boosted to 19 per cent in the near future.

Hezel's development could be an important step towards the economical use of solar cells.

Much effort is going into reducing costs in this form of energy.

One method is to use polycrystalline material instead of the expensive silicon chips. This is cheaper, but less effective, as greater amounts are needed.

To produce traditional silicon solar cells it is necessary to change the material's electrical qualities that a "np transition" - or border layer between positive and negative particles - is formed.

For this purpose extraneous substances such as phosphorus are heated up to 850 degrees and mixed with the silicon.

However, the high temperature alters the atomic structure and this affects efficiency.

Hezel's method does not entail the use of high temperatures and so the material is not subjected to such pressure.

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is fewer. The new solar cell has a fundamentally different structure.

The silicon is covered by a thin oxide layer of 1.2 to 1.6 nanometres. On top of this comes a silicon nitride layer 80 nanometres thick. Here positive charges arise and these are vital for the effective functioning of a solar cell.

When light has created a positive and a negative charge carrier, they are separated in an electrical field. The electrons penetrate the oxide layer and enter the metal electrodes in the silicon nitride.

The electric voltage in these cells is higher than in normal cells.

The silicon nitride forms an opaque, mechanically and chemically powerfully resistant layer. This layer is the product of a chemical reaction between silicon and ammonia on the silicon disc.

In this process atomic hydrogen is produced, which neutralises crystalline defects. This improves effectiveness, particularly useful in the case of polycrystalline carriers.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 April 1981)

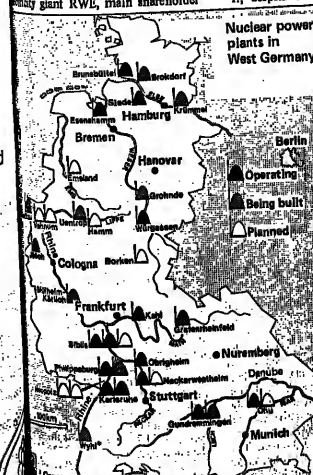
### An answer to radioactive waste storage

The Karlsruhe Atomic Research Centre has developed a ceramic matrix material for storing and neutralising radioactive plutonium waste.

The Centre has developed the product in the past two years as part of a research commission from the European Community.

Powdery and liquid waste is injected into the ceramic substance and sintered at 1300 degrees Celsius. The end-product is stable, resistant to both heat and radiation.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 8 April 1981)





Art form under challenge: a scene from an operatic version of 'The Rake's Progress'.

(Photo: Fritz Payer)

## ■ THE ARTS

## Despite full houses, function of opera comes under close scrutiny

Any defence of the opera as an art form these days generally meets with a shrug of the shoulders, even from progressive artists and intellectuals. Thus has been the general response since the

of arguments. One is that it takes up an unrepresentatively large amount of cultural budgets, which are too small anyway. Another is that it is a socially irrelevant, anachronistic, conservative-reactionary art form which is fossilised, belongs in the museum and serves only the upper classes' inordinate love of pomp.

This wave of prejudice reached its climax at the end of the sixties, when French composer and Bayreuth conductor Pierre Boulez demanded that all opera houses should be blown up.

If the state of art forms were judged solely in terms of audiences, a defence of the opera would be superfluous: 85 to 90 per cent of opera houses seats are regularly filled.

Some years ago the Institute of Project Studies conducted a poll which found that 21 per cent of Germans go to an opera at least once a year. And of this 21 per cent, 54 per cent had elementary leaving certificates, 30 per cent had 0 levels and only 16 per cent had university entrance qualifications.

Many cultural politicians could conclude from these statistics alone that all is well with the music scene in this country — and in terms of audience interest and audience social structure this conclusion would be correct.

The key question which is constantly being posed is: what can the opera offer people today? Is the opera's function that of a museum, does it satisfy the aesthetic need for "beautiful appearances" or is there still an element of striving for liberty, upheaval and reconciliation as in the case of the early bourgeois opera around 1800 (Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Beethoven's *Fidelio*).

Of course the humanitarian message of the *Magic Flute* and the indictment of political oppression and despotism in *Fidelio* remain as relevant as ever, but are the musical and dramatic means of

the late 18th century the most appropriate mode of expression.

Ninety per cent of today's opera repertoire — ballet excluded — consists of works composed before the 20th century.

So yes, opera does have an artistic function — though in the case of the two above-mentioned classics the museum's exhibits are timeless.

After 1945, Rolf Liebermann was the only German opera director to include a large proportion of contemporary works in his opera repertoire. He was head of the Hamburg Opera for 14 years, in which he commissioned many contemporary works — with the full support of the Hamburg opera-goers. It is simply wrong to say that opera audiences are not interested in contemporary works.

On the other hand, it is not true to say that the opera has no raison d'être as a museum. On the contrary. The cultivation and re-interpretation of important works from the past is part of the overall task.

Another important task is to bring opera back into the socio-cultural field of force in which it operated from its



Rolf Liebermann

(Photo: Aeblich)

origins until 1932 — to transform it from within into musical theatre.

It is true that opera is unfortunately far less the focal point of artistic and social discussion today than it was for example in the twenties or in the thirties.

The major interests of our time are mainly reflected through other art forms. Some reasons for this have been mentioned above.

However, there have been a number of innovative and provocative composers working in opera in the past 30 years. Names such as Mauricio Kagel, Luigi Nono, Hans Werner Henze, György Ligeti, Bernd Alois Zimmermann and the like are all artists who in their own very different ways have, underlined the essential role of opera as part of our overall cultural heritage.

Philosopher Ernst Bloch regarded the opera and music in general as epurs to hope, confidence and the realisation of a "concrete utopia." And another great thinker of this century, Herbert Marcuse, came to a similar view of the role of art in society after a radical revision of his ideas in later life.

For many decades, Marcuse insisted on the position developed in his *The Affirmative Character of Culture*. Here he said that art should be directly integrated into life and that this would inevitably lead to the death of art.

In his first major work, *The Permanence of Art*, Marcuse revised this position. In this work he says that art must maintain its autonomy in our increasingly bureaucratised age. This, he argues, is the only way it can escape the fetters of the dominant point of view.

And here Marcuse is referring to all art, not just to socially relevant art, whatever that may be.

Is opera too expensive? Against the background of what has already been said, the answer to this must be a categorical no. It is true, though, that this money is sometimes spent too carelessly, ineffectively and unimaginatively. And of course the opera is the most expensive item in the cultural budget. The Deutsche Oper in Berlin — which ranks with the Hamburg and Munich opera

In terms of size, subsidies and costs, had a total budget of DM53m in 1979. Of this, DM9m was recovered from box office takings and the remaining DM44m was a state subsidy.

In return, the Deutsche Oper produced 336 performances in the 1979/80 season and audiences totalled 550,000, considerably more than many top football clubs.

No theatre attracted anything like the same numbers. Of course it is the nature of opera to be expensive. The orchestra, soloists, workshops, dress, personnel costs and globe-trotting sums — 90 per cent of the budget — which is hardly surprising when one considers that the Deutsche Oper has a permanent staff of 1,000.

Labour market and socio-economic aspects cannot be adduced as arguments for the opera, which stand or fall on its artistic merits. However, these considerations are completely ignored either, especially times of rising unemployment.

The large number of permanent staff at the Deutsche Oper underlines the much-cited super fees paid to stars are very much the exception.

But this does not mean that the stars DM10,000 to DM20,000 for a performance — out of taxpayers' money.

There is no denying that singing is part of the fascination of opera. A singer goes through a long arduous training, has no guarantee of security and is subjected to great physical and psychological stress. This above-average payment for artistic can be justified, though by alone



Herbert Marcuse

(Photo: David)

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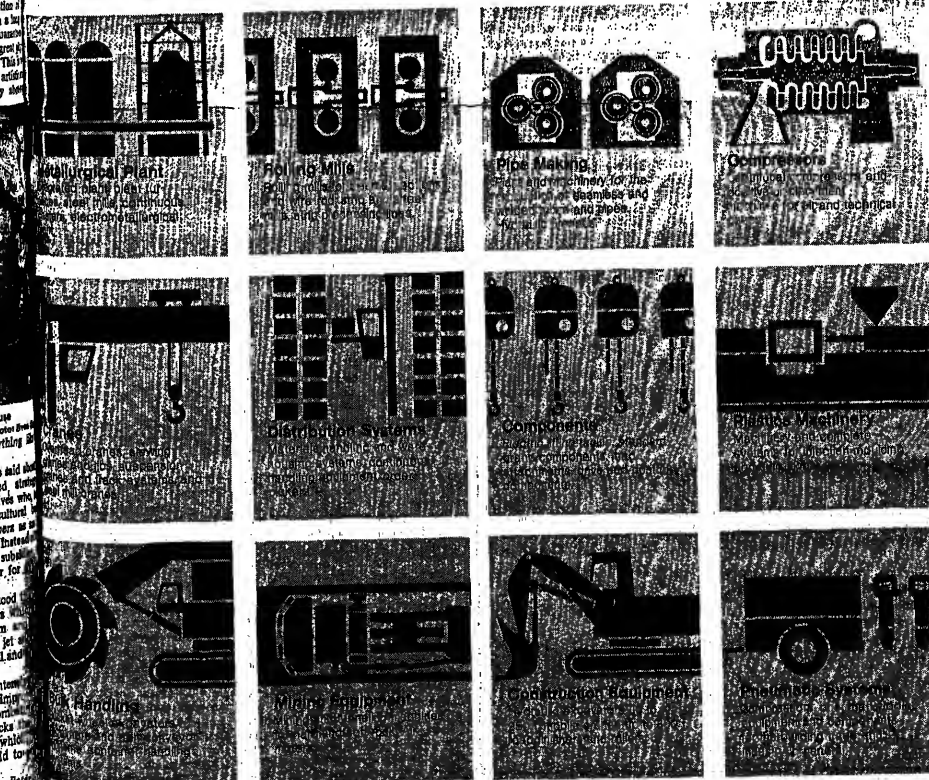
Finally a word must be said about foolish and short-sighted, some cultural representatives who, a larger slice of the cultural pie, stoop to indicting the opera as a stable and sports monster. Instead of fighting together for higher subsidies, people fight one another for a slice of the cake.

It ought to be understood that a nation such as ours, which is supposed to spend DM65 billion a year more for a better job, support the opera, traditional and new art forms.

If it can be said that the future of art and culture will improve, individual's chances of continuing daily pressures and attacks pressing him. Art — of which opera is a part — will be a key aid to the coming years.

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# MEDICINE

## Advances aid the infertile, but ethical questions remain

Even those who heard only a fraction of the 500-odd papers that were read at the 3rd World Congress on Human Procreation at Berlin's Congress Centre could not escape the impression that normal procreation and pregnancy is the exception rather than the rule today.

Much of the Congress dealt with ways and means of artificially preventing and restoring fertility and with "repair jobs" for sterile men and barren women.

For couples who for one reason or another cannot have children for whom over surgery is not feasible there still remains the test tube baby.

Discussion on the ethical and legal questions that go with test tube babies was held before rows of empty seats. But even before then it had become obvious that a technology, once introduced, can no longer be reversed.

Not only the various religions — above all the Catholic Church — frown upon such juggling with ovum and semen. Lay sceptics argue that the world suffers more from overpopulation than from a baby shortage.

However, procreation specialists argue that their main objective is to help the individual, the patient.

"We are no politicians," they say, "and therefore social issues are not our concern."

The unfulfilled wish for a child, on the other hand, can impose a severe emotional strain. Moreover, biologists and doctors have learned a great deal about the mechanisms of procreation and prenatal development and are thus able to prevent malformations in infants. The picture for treating childless couples has greatly changed.

Only a few years ago the insemination of a woman with the semen of an unknown man was the subject of heated medical and ideological debate.

Today, the experts find that their work is barely disturbed by such considerations.

Heterologous insemination, as it is called, is becoming routine for both specialised doctors and hospitals.

Medical congresses like that in Berlin now only deal with techniques and the most promising methods of such insemination.

Microsurgery, a major instrument in

helping couples have children of their own, has also been improved in the past few years, though it still has its limitations.

Fallopian tube blockages can only be remedied by surgery if they are not too extensive and if the blockage is accessible. It is therefore not surprising that this type of surgery will soon be regarded as antiquated.

The original controversy over the first test tube baby that was born on 25 July 1978, Louise Brown, has given way to matter-of-fact scientific discussions.

The "medical fathers" of Louise, British Drs Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards, were thus a major magnet for the majority of the 1,200 participants in the Congress as were their equally successful Australian counterparts.

Sixteen pregnancies have so far been brought about in Australia by uniting ovum and semen. Two of these babies have meanwhile been born, another one is due, and nine women are only a few months short of delivery.

Edwards and Steptoe, who have so far produced two test tube babies, reported on eight further pregnancies, intimating that this was not all.

They recently abandoned their university work to open a commercial clinic in a medieval English castle.

This type of insemination is usually carried out in cases where the fallopian tubes are blocked due to some former

infection. So far as men are concerned, the method is indicated when there is a shortage of fertile semen because artificial insemination requires much fewer sperm cells than the natural variety.

Constant control of hormones and of the ovaries by means of ultrasonic devices enables the doctor to determine the most favourable moment when the ovum is ripe, but before the follicle bursts.

First, the doctor extracts the sperm. Then, using a syringe, he sucks an ovum cell from the follicle.

Following a series of laboratory tests, the sperm and the ovum cell are placed in a nutrient solution where insemination takes place.

The inseminated ovum cell now matures in an incubator and is then implanted in the uterus.

This is where the major problem lies because the mucous membrane of the uterus undergoes changes that are too fast for the relatively slow process of artificial insemination.

This timing problem can be aggravated still further when — as is being done by the Australians — hormones are used to stimulate the creation of several follicles in order to more easily obtain a fertile ovum.

On the other hand, it should be possible to add a different hormone that will slow down the changes in the mucous membrane.

Infertility is no longer something that must be lived with; there are now many ways of overcoming it, particularly when the problem lies with the woman.

Childlessness stems from the man about as often as it does from the woman. In about 20 per cent of cases, it is due to both partners.

Much more is known about the reproductive processes of women, and diagnosis has improved greatly.

Moreover, analysis of hormones which, along with the pituitary gland, control the functioning of the sex organs has provided many new insights and has shed light on the mechanics of menstruation.

And researchers have managed to shed light on the interplay between hypophysis and the pituitary gland — at least in some areas.

It is now known that such substances

## Many ways to help childless to have children

as dopamine and serotonin can retard or promote hypophysis.

The pituitary gland responds to environmental sensations among other things. All these insights have led to the development of new disciplines of medicine, among them reproductive medicine, the aim of which is to make reproduction controllable in a negative and in a positive sense.

The intention is to use medical knowledge about reproductive processes to help childless couples have children (there are still considerable gaps concerning male reproductive functions) and, on the other hand, to develop new contraceptive methods — such as the pill for the man — that will help stem the population explosion in many parts of the world.

Professor Eberhard Nieschlag of the Clinical Research Group for Reproductive Medicine of the Max Planck Society deplores the fact that this line of medicine has not yet become established as an independent discipline.

Professor Hermann P.G. Schneider draws attention to the fact that West Germany's population is diminishing by 200,000 every year (the population of a city like Münster) and that ten per cent of couples are unable to have children.

This made research into the treatment of sterility essential.

The growing number of childless couples, he said, can be explained by the new insights about the interplay between the pituitary gland and hypophysis.

To overcome this syndrome problem, reproduction researchers now toy with the idea of a technique that has long been known in animal husbandry: deep freeze and female cells or already matured ova, i.e. embryos.

This would make it possible to choose the prospective mother's next child when she chooses the right moment for implantation.

Veterinary surgeons and doctors have caused the matter in a totally different way. They arrived at the conclusion that human sperm is almost as resistant to deep freezing as is the sperm of many other animals. They have therefore begun to work in practice on the deep freeze method is already in use in heterologous insemination. There is some problem with the defrosted embryos — but given time this can be overcome.

In the United States, which has been a pioneer in this field, there is some talk of using a rent-a-sperm scheme in cases of women who for one reason or another have no sperm. The rented mother would place her sperm in the couple's disposal.

Ten to 15 per cent of all couples are unable to have children. Up to 25 per cent of this infertility is due to physiological reasons. They are endeavouring to remedy the situation, and the hope is that they should be taught to expect their problem meets with little or no help.

Progress in reproductive medicine has been so swift that those who today are the future of human procreation must not forget the nature and its limitations, but things past.

Justin Wolf



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## EDUCATION

## 'Standstill over realities of 1980s not only a matter of cash'

The vaunted "empty coffers dictate" in Bonn, the *Länder* and the municipalities has brought some action in a field of politics that experts have been tediously sifting despite fierce ideological disputes. But the action and movement, as evidenced by the statements of politicians, education ministers and spokesmen for various organisations is not directed forward.

The current slogan is not "Accept the Challenge of the 80s and 90s" by investing in the future in the most important sector by providing good education and vocational training for the largest possible number of apprentices and university students and tackling the job with vigour.

On the contrary. The courage needed to tackle the challenge and tread new paths is being stifled by another slogan that is rampant now, i.e. "stop the Experiments". It is also being stifled by financial cutbacks involving money needed for the construction of new universities, for new teaching positions and for scholarships.

Lower Saxony's Education Minister Remmer, CDU, demands that the Joint Federal Government-Länder Commission on Educational Planning be disbanded because there is nothing left to plan.

Yet educational policy makers of all parties were in agreement in the early 1970s that body was established and the first overall educational plan was worked out in 1973. There was consensus at the time that, in the long run, 20 per cent of each school year should go on to university. Among the other important objectives were the appointment of additional teachers to make for smaller classes and a nation-wide project for comprehensive schools as an alternative to the traditional 3-tier educational system.

The percentage of students having now been reached and the comprehensive school in its various forms tested, the SPD and FDP, the most ardent protagonists at the time, are reluctant to continue on that course.

In the other political camp there is now a clear sign of smugness over the fact that the necessity to economise is about to thwart the whole project which never enjoyed much favour in that camp in the first place.

### Childless

Continued from page 12

It was initially extremely difficult to reproduce the pattern of this rhythm but the use of pumps during the past 18 months helped overcome the problem.

Attached to the patient's clothing, the pump releases LH at the Wood stream at exactly the natural intervals.

Science can chalk it up as a great success that this form of sterility can now be treated 25 per cent of the patients thus treated have so far become pregnant. But diagnosis and therapy are tedious.

In view of this it is legitimate to ask whether adopting an orphan is not just as good a solution.

Angela Heck  
(Die Welt, 14 April 1981)



The whole movement has been spearheaded by the teachers' associations rather than the politicians. The target of their attack is the comprehensive school — and that at the very moment when a decision is about to be reached in the *Länder* as to whether this type of school should enjoy equal status with the traditional 3-tier system.

The secondary school teachers' association now maintains that the atmosphere at comprehensive schools is "cold" and that it promotes "aggression, selfishness and violence."

This is a blend of not very clever arguments, a bizarre contribution to the topical discussion on the causes of revolt among some of our young people and a deliberate disregard for scientific findings.

According to these findings, comprehensive school students are more eager to learn than their opposite numbers in traditional schools and the atmosphere between teachers, parents and children is anything but "cold".

The teachers' association fails to mention that, as polls in North Rhine-Westphalia show, well over one-fourth of the parents would like to send their children to a comprehensive school if there were one nearby.

Instead, they repeat ancient prejudices: Comprehensive school promotes

Top talent in German schools is being wasted because of the traditional school system, unenlightened parents and the "equal opportunity" policies of education, says a group of educationists.

They say that between 0.5 and 2 per cent of pupils, the top range, is not being developed the way it is in the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain.

Objections to the system are being spearheaded by the German Teachers Association.

Moves were made last year to introduce special classes for genius children, but the project had to be postponed.

In June, the idea is to be further discussed during a "contact week".

Case histories are used to back up the arguments. One involves Michael, who by the time he was four could ski, play a musical instrument, write, add, subtract, and — using his own method — divide.

By the time he was five, he beat the chess champion of a city in southern Germany, and could speak several languages.

Michael looked forward to school — until he got there.

Just for fun, one weekend he solved all problems in his maths book, and promptly was chided by the teacher. He was no longer asked questions in class because, as the teacher put it, he knew everything.

Michael's frustration became chronic, resulting in crying fits, illness and loss of appetite.

The "talented but opinionated" and in-

only the collective as a whole, good students learn less than they could and poor ones learn no more than in traditional schools.

Another teachers' association recently deplored that a whole generation of students considers learning more important than learning, overlooking the fact that hundreds of thousands of young people struggle to improve their grades by decimal points to enable them to enrol in university without knowing whether their efforts will be rewarded.

Such conservative efforts to declare the entire experimental phase in our educational policy a failure and finished have, of course, had their effects.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, Prime Minister Johannes Rau, SPD, has tabled a bill in the state legislature which most of his fellow party members have termed "lex and indecisive".

According to the detractors, the bill makes it virtually impossible to establish additional comprehensive schools in rural areas — and that notwithstanding the fact that the 32 existing schools of this type have to turn down one in two applicants.

Leading SPD politicians in North Rhine-Westphalia rebut this, arguing that "there are more important problems to be dealt with in these difficult times" than the tricky subject of comprehensive schools.

This fear of going ahead in matters of educational policy in a time of economic crisis is typical of the attitudes of SPD and FDP in Bonn as well.

## The system, parents, accused over 'wasted talent'

trovered child" (as the teacher put it) had an IQ of 170.

Ever, now nine, was able to speak in complete sentences at the age of 11 months. When she was three she started to learn foreign languages from the guests in her parents' hotel, and by the time she was four she had a behavioural disorder.

While the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain have tackled the gifted child problem in a down-to-earth way through special summer courses for 14 to 16-year-olds (USA) or through special schools for the gifted aged between two and 15 as in Hurst, England, in this country the problem of the child genius is simply being ignored.

But there is an outcry now for the promotion of these children, pioneered by the German Teachers Association which deplores the manner in which our gifted children are being treated.

The Society for the Promotion of Highly Talented Children in Hamburg and the Christian Youth Village Organisation were all set to start a special class for genius children last year.

The fact that the project had to be postponed to the 1981/82 school year is not necessarily a disadvantage.

Ideas on the setup of such a class have meanwhile become clearer, contacts between educationists and the Youth Village Organisation closer.

### Further Education: Career opportunities

2.1 million workers took part in further education courses between 1970 and 1979

The objective was:



20 per cent cutback in a

*Länder* projects for the construction of universities, as agreed upon in the negotiations, and the cultural technology in the Research Ministry are telling examples.

Yet the coalition government has the motto "Courage to Tackle the Future". This is irreconcilable with the backs on vital investments in the such as those in the research and development sectors.

Courage would have meant setting priorities — especially in times of funds are in short supply.

If the jumble of subsidies were cleared there would be ample room available.

The constant talk about the unemployment being the greatest problem, the standard of education and the mandatory to take decisions, politicians know very well how to make it.

Peter Abghe  
(Närburger Nachrichten, 7 April 1981)

## SPORT

## German girls win world hockey championship

Germany has won the women's hockey world championship for the second time in five years. The team beat the defending champions Holland 4-2, on penalties in the final in Buenos Aires.

At the end of extra time, the German team, led by goalie, Susi Schmidt, saved three out of four penalties by the Dutch girls.

Strödter, the team trainer, who had wished for a better result, said:

"The team, with an average age of 22 years and six months, is unusually young. It is a pity that the girls were not able to play in the final. Strödter, describing her as the best player in the competition."

"We won. We held on. It was a performance, especially in the second half and extra time, when I thought we were the better side."

The Olympic gold medalists Zimbabwe and New Zealand teams, who were both highly-touted. This was the first time that the girls had won the FIH, which organizes the Buenos Aires event.

But the club treasurer did not complain. Payment of DM1m in bonuses was saved.

Now Bayern Munich is in a similar position.

No doubt club treasurer Scherer

## Buenos Aires victory ends turbulent period

Strödter, trainer of the West German women's hockey team, which won the world championship in Buenos Aires, was only 32 when he was appointed after the girls had sacked their predecessor. They were named as runners-up in the world championship without a trainer. Disappointment and bitterness overshadowed

Success and achievement ought to be criteria for appointing a national trainer.

Thilo Schulte  
(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 April 1981)

Some time before the German Ice Hockey Association and the national team term re-established a working relationship.

Strödter has brought calm and hard work back to the team. But when Bonn officials gave the thumbs up, the officials gave the thumbs down. The coffers were empty, there were not the funds to pay anything.

The officials did not show a great deal of skill in appointing Strödter as a national trainer — even though the German women's hockey team is one of the best in the world.

There must be seen against a backdrop in which other national trainers are being far less success — though not because they are any less successful. Generally the sporting talent in Germany is not strong enough for the

But this in no way detracts from the West German team's achievement. Strödter, who is an honorary trainer but hopes to be officially appointed national trainer later this year, pointed out that there were four world-class teams in the competition, the two finalists plus the Soviet Union, who took third place, and Australia, who came fourth. Strödter also said that Argentina, who came sixth, are now also very strong.

It is already clear that there is going to be some bitter arguing between the two hockey organisations about qualification criteria for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Strödter says: "Our world championship title in Argentina is definitely an important step towards qualification."

The trend which emerged in Moscow despite the absence of some of the world's strongest teams was evident in Argentina. Improved training methods have made women's hockey more athletic, faster and harder.

Strödter's verdict: "Despite technical

This time last year, Hamburg SV footballers were on the point of winning two championships, the league and the European Cup. In the end, they won neither.

But the club treasurer did not complain. Payment of DM1m in bonuses was saved.

Now Bayern Munich is in a similar position.

No doubt club treasurer Scherer



On the way to a dramatic victory. The German women's hockey team (black dresses) in action against the defending champions, Holland, in the final of the world championships in Buenos Aires. (Photo: dpa)

imperfections, the Soviet Union were superior to all other teams athletically. We will have to draw our conclusions from this."

He regards this team as the core of his Olympic squad for 1984. However he recognises that profes-

onal and family commitments can often make it very difficult to keep a successful team together. "Women often give up competition at the age of 25 whereas men can put up world-class performances at 30."

dpa  
(Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, 7 April 1981)

## Winning is nice, but it can be expensive for soccer clubs

winning is nice, but it can be expensive for soccer clubs. A European Cup victory increases a team's international value on the transfer market and in friendly games. This is why manager Scenari wants a pay rise.

Hoenes plans next year to sell club emblems and pennants and all kinds of other odds and ends. He is confident this will prove a money-spinner.

Fans who want their team to win everything going are unlikely to appreciate all the cold calculation of marks and pennies.

But it's the only way to survive in this risky business.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 April 1981)

## Promotion problems 'not solved by using fancy descriptions for events'

International German championships are sprouting up like daffodils in May in tennis, table tennis, judo, ski-ing, rowing, boxing and other disciplines.

These championships often promise more than they deliver, as the recent Intersport boxing tournament in Münster underlined.

The temptation is strong for sports officials to upgrade national championships by calling them "international". It sounds far better.

But these fine-sounding titles don't exactly attract the world's elite.

In fact the devaluation of international German championships in recent

in Sindelfingen can tell a tale or two about this problem.

Borg, Connors and McEnroe were conspicuous by their absence. The International German Championships title is about as exclusive as a package tour to Majorca, so the organisers described the competition as the "strongest 75,000 dollar competition."

This did not exactly get the crowds pouring in.

The public are not gullible. They are not impressed by fine wrapping. They want to see top-quality performances, and will only turn up en masse when major international stars are performing.

The organiser of the International German Indoor Tennis Championships

Studentsche Zeitung

economic success is the only factor which decides the amount of the bonus. A European Cup victory increases a team's international value on the transfer market and in friendly games. This is why manager Scenari wants a pay rise.

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(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 March 1981)